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Hello Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

My name is Michael Smith. My last name is spelled S-m-i-t-h. I am from Butte Montana.

I believe in House Bill 518. - a bill for Psychiatric Advance Directives.

There have been cyclical periods in my life where I have experienced predictable signs of mental health crises. I believe that a psychiatric advance directive would have benefited me greatly.

As a facilitator of wellness workshops, I have a plan for crisis. Unfortunately, I am not always aware when I am ill and although my WRAP plan speaks to this lack of insight, it is not a legal document and therefore my treatment is often delayed.

I want to be able to authorize care and get services at times when I know I won't recognize that I need services.

If I can give the doctor the legal authority to give me meds or even hospitalize me, I think I can prevent unnecessary chaos in my family and community.

I believe that a Psychiatric advanced directive would save me and my family months of agony, pain and extreme stress should crisis arise again.

An agent and a psychiatric advance directive would allow doctors and providers an avenue for early intervention with medically appropriate treatment that has worked for me.

Thank you for considering this bill for psychiatric advance directives.

Please support House bill 518

Michael Smith  
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